

# A Journal, Remarks or Observations in a Voyage Down the Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi Rivers &c.

*John G. Stuart (1783-1853)*

John G. Stuart's diary is now in special collections at the Kentucky Historical Society. This transcription appeared in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 50 (January 1952): 5-25. The editor stated that John G. Stuart was born in 1783, married Sally Gaitskill in 1818, and died in 1853. He corrected the misspellings for clarity, removed text that he deemed obscene, and inserted ellipses (. . .) in place of the objectionable text.



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A JOURNAL, REMARKS OR OBSERVATIONS IN A VOYAGE  
DOWN THE KENTUCKY, OHIO, MISSISSIPPI RIVERS &c.

John G. Stuart (1783-1853)

It is now friday and am just beginning to write, should have begun on last saturday evening but for various avocations. Will now endeavor to go back from memory.

Saturday 22d—Febr—1806.

Started from my father's with my brother Roy for Cleveland<sup>1</sup> landing about ten o'clock. Din'd at Mr. Headon's. Roy forgot his right hand from his left and we arrived at the Landing about sunset. The new road leading up boon's<sup>2</sup> creek by Roger's Mill<sup>3</sup> is very Romantic—high cliffs. When we arrive at the landing found G. Halley just beginning to load assisted him, he being the gentleman with whom I mean to go down. His loading is flour & a little whiskey & tobacco.

23d

Carry'd on board a good quantity of flour. Roy return'd home. a number of people at the landing. saw some negroes roll 6 or seven turkies down the high cliff opposite to us. Bought a tray for 1/6 of a negro for G. Halley.

24<sup>th</sup>

Continued loading the boat—very tiresome dirty work.

25.

Fair weather. loading still. expect to start tomorrow. we sleep in a cold camp here on a matt on the ground, very disagreeable. this evening there came down a boat com'd. by John Sublitt for Hart & Co. the crew are a specimen of what I may expect to see in my voyage drinking swearing & kicking. Lent G. Halley 12/9.

26.

Finish't loading with 315 barrels of flour whiskey & tobo rang'd in triple & quadruple tiers on each side of our boat. built a fire place. bid adieu to our friends. G. Halley & E. Clark

<sup>1</sup> Kentucky River, Fayette Co.

<sup>2</sup> Fayette Co.

<sup>3</sup> Fayette Co.

the young man that goes with us parted with their Fathers with watery eyes on all sides. As for me I neither wept nor was wept for here. We then hove off and dropp'd down the River about a quarter of a mile and then came to on the North side of the River in deep water and a fine sandy shore opposite to a most tremendous cliff of rocks. Scotts boat past us this evening. Weather fair & warm. dropt overboard my two pocket knives.

27<sup>th</sup>

Still lying on the river, scarcely any employment now. ditto weather.

28.

This morning the weather turn'ed somewhat cooler and the wind up. the disagreeable working of the boat, made me a little sick. took the canoe and crossing the river landed under the cliff. the wind arose and was almost afraid to return as young Clark was with me and could not swim. the buzzards appear to be hunting out places for nests in these high rocky cliffs. the river here is 70 or 80 yards broad. we lye opposite to a cliff of rocks which must be 500 feet perpendicular. the sun sets on our boat although we are on the other side of the river about half past two p.m. the shelves in the rock all the way up appear like water marks as they are with a few exceptions exactly parallel to the surface of the water. I have scarcely any opportunity to write I am now finishing what I began yesterday evening up on the bank on a log G. H. came to the boat pretty boozy.

1t. March. 12 o'clock.

a very cool morning. took the canoe and went up to the landing for some planks and a cock to put in the coop with our hens. E. Clark chas'd him until he was almost broke down. wind pretty high night. just returned from half an hours stroll down the river in our canoe. the rocky cliffs are still a subject of curiosity to me; indeed I think they are worth looking at. they exhibit vast quarries of limestone. there are little dwellings built high up under the rocks—of clay sticking out from the rock; some of them appear like they would contain more than ½ dirt and unlike . . . nests they have no divisions in them apparently. I shall walk out to examine these cliffs tomorrow or next day. We cook our victuals and I begin to be a pretty good cook. Our breakfast generally is coffee and with loaf & butter or broil'd ham or beef. Dinner boil'd meat, potatoes, etc. Weather clear & calm. Very impatient for rain. The River has been too low to proceed ever since last tuesday evening. This morning I saw something like an otter lying in a cleft of the rocks, mean to endeavor to trap him. Keep my health & appetite, as yet very well. The River here dont continue straight anywhere for ½ mile.

2d.

Last night a mink got into our hen coop and awaken'd us by the squalling of our hens. I

got up & chas'd him out of the boat and on shore some time struck him several times but he escaped me at last. he killed two of our hens. today John Bakers boat came down within a mile of us and stuck on a riffle. We went up and try'd 3 or 4 hours to push her off but in vain. the water extremely cold; in up to our waists, feel a little unwell from being in the cold water so long. Baker half drunk, his breeches absolutely torn off his . . . , & his crew a set of a mean dirty looking fellows as ever I saw. By being up at the cursed boat Halley & myself miss'd seeing some Ladies & Gentlemen who had promised him a visit today, it being sunday. Cool evenings; no prospect for rain yet. Shall soon be tired of this life of inactivity. Our boat is the best on the score of accommodations of any that I have seen. We have a very good fireplace and a comfortable little room in her. Took a walk out along the cliff this evening. We watch the clouds here with the greatest of attention. I had the pleasure today of hearing an old fellow say he had a bad pain in his back which said he is always the forerunner of rain. The water runs down the high cliff opposite to us and freezes in large flakes & icicles and during the day comes tumbling down with a violent noise.

3d.

This evening for the first since we have been lying here we had a shower of hail & RAIN, but it has now ceased; though as it's near the full of the moon I hope we shall have enough to raise the River, which now very low. It has fallen about a foot in 24 hours until the last one or two days.

Tuesday, 4h.

All our sanguine hopes are gone. Last night we were full of the hopes of having plenty of rain, but today there is no likelihood of it. Clear & windy. I begin to be very much tired of waiting here for water, today went up to see the boats above, staid 2 or 3 hours, had E. Spilman to visit us this evening. Our weather judges say that as the moon has past the full without rain we shall have none until she changes—very discouraging this.

Wedy. 5th

Light clouds & windy. Today we had Capt. McCall & Majr. Davenport to dine with us. Joshua Baker came down and supped with us intending to stay all night. He says it will not rain in this month.

Thurs. 6<sup>th</sup>

Still deplorably dry. We are all extremely anxious for rain here. Every circumstance we make to be signs of rain—the cooing of the doves, the screaming of some fowls down the River, pains in the back & shoulders, the feeling of the air, etc. And now I can hear a riffle roaring plainly about a mile below us for the first time which gives me great hopes. We breakfasted this morning elegantly on fish, ham, eggs, butter & coffee. J. Baker took

breakfast with us. I took a sail in our canoe about a mile down the River. I saw several little streams of clear cool water running out of holes in the rock near the water.

Frid. 7<sup>th</sup>

Dry weather. Today we had Capt I. Win, J. W. haley, R. Coleman, T. Ferguson & several others to dine with us. We amused ourselves in the evening with leaping down the high sandy beach above our boat; one or two of us rolled into the River.

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup>

Went with G. H. up to the boat on the riffle. E. Clark went home. Ditto weather. Horribly tired of it. All our weather tokens have evaporated like inflammable air. I have endeavored to mould my mind to wait with patience until the change of the Moon, about 11 days. Diable.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

Last night from appearances my expectations of rain was rais'd to the highest pitch, but disappointment here is our lot. It has not cleared away yet though. I never saw such smoky weather in my life; I cannot see above 2 or 300 yards. Today a Gentleman by the name of Davis told me he thought it would rain in a day or two because the clouds looked red yesterday morning. Last evening E. Clark went home, and today G. H.—into the country, myself the only one of the Family at home. Had however the company of some Ladies, Mrs. Darnald, Mrs. Irvin, Miss Irvin & Miss Darnald, they staid sometime, and some men, Coleman, Darnald, Davis, Sublitt, and a troop more. Hope we shall have some rain before this smoke clears away. Bought a mat for 2/ of a negro.

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Last night had several light showers of rain; slept at the boat alone. Jim Sublit came down and sat with me until bedtime, told me many notable tales—Among the rest how to preserve my health in this trip, & how to walk up from New Orleans, & many Boatmen's tales. Today Cloudy & light showers. In hopes of rain enough somewhere to raise the River in a few days. Old Mr. Halley and son-in-law J. Patton pd us a visit; we din'd on Fish, etc.

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup>

Today Mr. Halley call'd on us on his way home. He brought me three newspapers, all of this month, the first Literary amusement I have enjoy'd since here. A luxury, I considered them. E. Clark came home today. The weather has cleared up & looks as little like rain now as ever I saw it. My patience will soon be on the stretch.

Wedy, 12.

Went up the River in our canoe to Jno, Bakers Boat & brought down 14 lbs. of Butter. This day my brother Roy came down to see me, agreed to stay at the Boat until I sent home; Rode his horse out this evening as far as Mr. Haydon's where I lodged all night. Dry weather.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>

This Morning I rode home to my Father's. Home with Mrs. Richardson & to H. Gaitskill's. Do Weather.

Friday. 14<sup>th</sup>

Went to Mr. William's & Mr. Clrk's home by H. Gaitskills, slept at J. Gatewoods. Do. Weather.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

At home writing Letters and reading the Beggar Girl & in the evening to B.I. Taul's & home. Do. Weather.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

Set off from my father's & came down to the river. All well. Roy went home this evening. Ill this evening with a bad Head Ache and sick stomach. Weather cloudy but still dry.

Mon. 17<sup>th</sup>

Went down to the riffle with E. Clark & G. Halley in our canoe. The River is extremely low. Today Mr. Clark brought 800 lbs of hemp to the Boat to take down the River. My indisposition gone. Weather clear & do.

Tues. 18<sup>th</sup>

The Moon I believe changes tonight. The weather cloudy today & more rain than we have had since the 19<sup>th</sup> Feby, tho' but a very little yet. It is still cloudy and I hope we shall have rain before it clears off. If this change of the Moon passes without rain we shall be in utter despair.

Wed. 19<sup>th</sup>

Went up the River to assist Mr. Irvin in turning over a large ferryboat but for want of hands etc. we did not succed. The wind for about 12 hours has been blowing from the South. In great hopes it will blow up rain. It is very warm; & tonight it becomes cloudy.

Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup>

Last night we had some pretty good showers of rain with Thunder & Lightning until about midnight; the rain however will not be near sufficient to raise the River. Our Boat,

tho' in other respects one of the best, has a very bad roof. Last night it let the rain in prodigiously. The wind has shifted a little toward the West. The weather is still warm; In hopes we shall have rain shortly. My impatience to leave this place encreases. We are about 6 miles from Boonsborough, 16 from Winchester, 15 from Lexington, 40 by land and 140 by water from Frankfort.

Friday 21<sup>t</sup>.

The wind still more Westwardly & the weather cooler; very uncertain when we shall have rain. The River from the small rain the other night has risen 9 or 10 inches & still rises slowly. A pretty high wind this evening with flying clouds. Went up to J. Baker's Boat today with G. Halley in the canoe. This evening we had Messrs. J. & E. True, W. Winn, & J. Spurr to dine with us. I take them all to be of the lower order of beings.

Saturday, 22<sup>d</sup>.

Last night we had the company of Messrs. J. & E. True, Joshua Baker & W. Winn until near nine. They nearly all got tipsey & Halley got very drunk. Today I went up in the Canoe to John Baker's Boat & took dinner. Carry'd some clothes to be wash't. Quite warm this evening; the wind at the West, very Cloudy, some prospect of rain.

Sunday 23<sup>d</sup>.

Last night it began to rain but the Wind shifted to North & it turn'd Snow & this morning it snowed considerably but it has cleared away & the air is very cold. Our Boat full of company today & several of them nearly drunk. It is now 30 days since I came here for I count them impatiently & no rain yet to raise the River; We are all here obliged to apply to the Bottle to "Drive away care, And banish despair."

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

Dry weather. Coleman din'd with us today. Took the canoe & went up the Riffle with him to J. B.'s Boat. While there Mr. John & Mr. James Halley the Unkle & brother of G. Halley came to us. They returned with us to our boat. G. H. from home; Promis't to return on Sunday next. The weather very cold today.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>.

An extremely cold morning, not much prospect for rain. Went over the River & brought home a parcel of ice for punch. Today Jno. Baker, E. Spilman & R. Coleman din'd with us & we went up to their Boat. Saw Irvin Launch his ferry Boat. J. True & J. Rogers with us this evening. Paid 1/6 to an old negro for eggs.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>.

High winds last night which continue today, also cool. G. Halley went into the Country



to a Wedding at Mrs. Grimes's whose son married a Miss Lucy Broadus. I went out to Mr. Rogers', din'd, borrow'd a Book, & return'd in the evening. Dry, dry, dry weather The People who live here say they do not recollect ever having seen this River above 5 or 6 inches lower at any time than it is now. There are said to be at this time about 100 Boats lying in the Kentucky waiting for water to carry them out.

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup>.

Moon quarter today but no rain. This evening came down to the River to see me my Brother Roy & my Friend Mr. Samuel Williams, Just from Georgia. An acquisition of the truest pleasure which I had experienced for a considerable time; but the brevity of his visit was a great alloy to the pleasure of it, for

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

This morning Mr. Williams & my brother left the River, Mr. Wms. To Woodford & Roy to Clark. I meant to go to Mr. Lyle's exhibition 8 or 10 miles off on an Horse my Father sent me to return home on; but lent it to Halley after I had gone 3 or 4 miles. He rode home to his Fathers & I walked home to the Boat. T. Ferguson here this evening. Warm to day & a little cloudy. When, when, will the River rise.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Last night R. Coleman lay with us. We took the Canoe & went up to their Boat. We also went up to view the old shot manufactory built on the edge of precipice 2 or 300 feet high. I walked up to the top of the hill & saw the course of the River for a considerable distance above us; it looked from where I was like a large canal. This evening R. Halley came down & lay with us. The weather very warm, in hopes of rain before long, the River continues to fall.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>.

Hot & dry. Today our Boat was crowded with Visitors. We amused ourselves with leaping down our sand bank in the evening. G. Halley went home with his Unkle Francis halley. The River notwithstanding its lowness continues to fall. It cannot be possible for this drought to continue much longer.

Monday 31<sup>th</sup>.

Today for the first time I ascended the Cliff on hill opposite to our Boat. I found it a tough job of work. It is a tremendous view to stand on the top of the precipice & look down on the lessene'd objects below. We roll'd rocks down which fell like thunder into the River below. Went up to J. & J. Bakers's Boats at the riffle above. J. Subblet return'd to the River. Flying clouds today.



Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Last night or rather this morning it began to rain & we had several showers, but it soon cleared away. The wind last night & today has been very variable, blowing from almost every point of the Compass. R. Coleman din'd with us.

Wednesday, 2<sup>d</sup>

Went up the River, got R.C., & went into the Country, To R.'s Mill, & R.'s & Stiver's, & Mr. Darnald's, & Johnson's. Staid at Mc's. Weather clear & very warm.

Thursday 3<sup>d</sup>.

After breakfast from . . . From there to Stapleton's took dinner, & home to the Boat. Weather clear & extremely hot.

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup>.

Alone at the Boat. Took some clothes to be wash't. E. Clark went home this morning. Went down the River in our Canoe with Worland & Subblet & shot at some wild Geese but kill'd none. Worland drunk as Bacchus. Do. Weather.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>.

G. H. came home today. We catch a few fish here now. Jno. Subblet & self cross't the River, ascended the Hill & went to Stone's. Tonight I found a common firefly in the middle of the River; which must be early for those insects. The preceeding part of this day has been clear; only smoky & very hot.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. April A Song from Jno. Subblet:

Let Europe be proud of her seats so Imperial  
Their Cities their Halls & their Palaces Grand  
All rais'd by devouring of honest men's vitals  
By fraud & oppression in Slavery's Land  
While each weary Traveller his home he makes boast of  
Dear Liberty's Garden the theme of my Song.

Let Monarchs be proud of their seats so Imperial  
Their Dukedoms their Lordships & Characters fair  
They boast that all Nature doth hoard up her treasure  
To cherish the senses of Monarchs so rare  
But for me truly blest with Republican Spirit  
I'll sing of Mount Vernon for there doth belong

One matchless in Glory and each Godlike merit  
I mean the Great Washington theme of my song.

Let Public or private hostilities threaten  
Or Foreign invasion presume to appear  
The Champion of freedom's here-to-for beaten  
Whom Foreigners dread and Columbians adore  
In Europe not only but all the World over  
Till ages unborn shall great Washington's fame  
Be sung by each Patriot, each Liberty's Lover  
And Paradise call'd by Mount Vernon's blest name.

Let Peace and its plenty Americans cherish  
Commerce and tillage our efforts command  
Those envied blessings we'd rather see Perish  
Than dear Independence be snatch't from our Land  
For to guard all those rights whose charms We delight in  
Let Vet'rans step forth and Columbians adore  
With Jefferson his Brother in Glory united  
We'll leave to the Country Mount Vernon once more.  
Finis

This morning it began to rain & has continued to rain at intervals through the whole day.  
It has ceased at present but I am in hopes only temporarily. Our Boat has been crowded  
with company today.

Easter Monday 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cloudy all day but no rain. Somewhat cooler. J. Sublet & myself went into the country to  
Mr. Balls & Mr. H\_\_'s & Mr. Marshalls where we saw a number of handsome girls. We  
returned home by Mr. Ball's where I had the pleasure to borrow a small Book—Saunder's  
Journal. We found at our Boat Messrs J. Halley & J. Crump. They tarry'd with us all night.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>.

Flying clouds & warm. The River has risen about 14 inches from the rain on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>.

Alone at the Boat. A. Winn came to the Boat & got drunk. Went up to Baker's Boat &  
brought home 14 lbs of butter. Flying clouds cool & windy.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>.

A very cool day wind from N. W. . . . Flying Clouds. confin'd to the Boat. Today a Keel Boat 60 feet long the property of Mr. S. Ledgerwood and Co. steer'd by. D. Coleman came down the River and after making great efforts to pass the riffle above us, lodg'd on it.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>.

Last night they had a drunken frolic at the upper Boats they had one Betsy Fasters . . . I came home to the Boat fr Irvins . . . Last night was extremely cold & today has been cool.

Saturday 12.

A pretty cool night this morning we had a considerable shower of snow with a little rain My Brother Roy call'd on his way from Lexington to see me. We had our Boat full of company to dine with us. two Bakers two Colemans Ledgerwood, Spilman, Ball, Irvin &c We went this evening out to a little dance at E. Stiver's. I return'd home with Glacken. Winds very variable, flying clouds—hot.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>.

At the Boat today a good deal of company. went up to Irvin's & Darnolds. warm weather. E. Clark returnd.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>.

Very warm this morning. company at the Boats a party went down the River a fishing. They caught a dish of fish. This evening we had a Thunder cloud with some Hail & Rain.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>.

A very warm morning. It rain'd a little. E. Clark & myself went down the River a fishing. I caught two fine Perch which are the first I have caught since on the River. Very warm all day with clouds & Thunder. It began to rain this evening about 5 o'clock it is now half past 7 and we have had more rain than we had had for two months before. the rain still continues. in hopes we shall have enough to raise the River.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>.

The rain I believe continued last night with but little intermission. I arose before daybreak and found the River had risen 10 feet. I had a good deal of difficulty to get our Cable & stern fast for the water had risen considerably above them. By 10 o'clock it had risen 12 or 15 feet at which time we hove off I shook hands with my acquaintances whose friendship had made me regret parting with them. I fired them a salute with my Pistol and we were soon out of sight we were surrounded with drift wood wild ducks &c. we went rapidly on. We compute our distance at nearly 40 miles. With much difficulty we landed about a

mile below the Vineyard.<sup>4</sup> The River still rises. Flying clouds & warm. I am now in a large Beech bottom which is all kill'd. This evening we saw 4 hogsheads of tobacco lodg'd on the River.

Thursday 17.

Who that had been detain'd as I have been for 7 or 8 weeks by dry weather would have expected the contrary extreme to stop them yet this is literally the case. The River rose last night about 10 feet & has been rising rapidly ever since. It has now risen above 30. We judg'd it too high this morning to proceed. Accordingly we are lying at a very good place about a mile below the Vineyard. Through the whole course of this day Large trees and timber of all kinds has been in a manner flying past. Also a cow, 3 or 4 canoes & this evening the Wreck of a large new produce Boat. We cannot tell who had lost her. This morning myself & one or two of our Boys went up to visit the Vineyard & to see the French there.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>.

The River still continues to rise tho' slowly this evening. We believe it has now risen above 50 feet perpendicularly. Vast quantities of drift wood has been passing us all day. I dropt' our axe in cutting some bushes out of the way of the Boat this morning into 15 or 20 feet of water. Went up to the Vineyard to borrow some tools to fix our Boat. return'd them this evening & pass'd some hours in conversing with an amiable Swiss Girl. Weather clear & warm.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>.

This morning the River has ceased rising. I walk'd up to the Vineyard and spent some agreeable hours in the company of the amiable Maria Dufore.<sup>5</sup> Return'd in the evening to the Boat. The River has fallen today about 2 feet. We design to proceed down tomorrow morning. 4 flat Boats & a Keel has pas't us today.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>.

As in the rising of the River we had to keep watch so last night on its fall we had to do likewise. the River fell about 4 feet last night & this morning early we put of. The River still high. We pass't the mouth of Hickman on our right & the mouth of Dick's River on our left. We pass't 22 flat Boats & 2 Keels. We suppos'd we floated 45 or 50 miles & the sun was an hour and half high when we landed. We expect to reach Frankfort tomorrow. We have seen a number of Hogsheads of tobacco that has been stop't on the River from Boats that had been stove. High cedar cliffs. We have seen number of clear torrents or

<sup>4</sup> Jessamine Co.

<sup>5</sup> John DuFour and his Swiss Colony established this Vineyard in 1796.

cascades of water pouring down into the River several hundred feet high. We have see a number of ducks of all kinds. As today is sunday we have seen a great number of Ladies on the Banks. Flying clouds today with light showers.

Monday 21t.

This morning early we put off & floated on. We past several Keel & flat Boats & several Warehouses. Wilkinsons, Scotts, Subblet, Craig's &c.<sup>6</sup> We pass't Frankfort about 2 oclock made some small efforts to land found it difficult & proceeded. We passed Frankfort riffle by taking the right hand shoot. a bad riffle. and in the evening we pass't Elkhorn riffle. the worst on the River. we pull'd hard on the left hand bend & then on the right. There is an Island at the mouth of Elkhorn. Today we pass't Clear creek on the left<sup>7</sup> Benson on the right<sup>8</sup> just below Frankfort & Elkhorn on our right about 12 or 13 miles below. We judg'd we floated today 50 miles or upwards. we landed a little before night & walk'd out to one Thomas. There are a number of handsome seats on the River. Above Flying clouds & about 10 oclock we had a heavy shower which as we had to stand at the oars wet us. The River is still very crooked we run sometimes to & sometimes from the Sun. Maria still runs in my mind.

Tuesday 22d.

At daybreak this morning we put off. The Banks of the River here are low. Flying clouds & windy. We pass't several handsome seats on the River. Past the mouth of Eagle<sup>9</sup> creek on the right this evening said to be 12 miles from the mouth of the Kentucky. Expect to get there early tomorrow as we are within 7 miles of it tonight. About 40 miles sail today. I went out tonight and got a Kettle of milk which is the first I have eaten for 2 months. The River is much wider here than at Cleavelands. The Ohio prevents this River from falling as fast as it did about 50 or 60 miles above it fell there about 4 or 5 feet in one night.

Wednesday 23d.

This morning we put off at the usual time and Landed at the mouth of the River at 9 oclock. Staid about an hour and proceeded. The Ohio somewhat low & falling. The little town of Newport<sup>10</sup> at the mouth a trifling place. Very long reaches in the Ohio which makes very handsome prospects. Floated about 45 miles today. We frequently see & hear Wild Turkies on the River. Rather cool today. Clear & a little windy. I went on shore this evening and bought a Turkey for 1/6.

<sup>6</sup> Woodford Co.

<sup>7</sup> Right.

<sup>8</sup> Left.

<sup>9</sup> Owen Co.

<sup>10</sup> Port William, now Carrollton.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>.

Put out this morning at daybreak with a favourable (wind) which continued the whole day in the morning we pass't the eighteen mile Island so call'd from being formerly thought to be that distance from the Falls. now said to be 24 from thence. We next past the Diamond Island—from its form. It contains I believe several hundred Acres of Land. I took the canoe & landed on it. As good Land as I ever saw. It is partly covered with cane. 12 miles above the Falls. We pass't another about 5 above the falls pretty long, but narrow Landed about a mile above the Falls. I walked down & took a view of Louisville Which is a handsome little town it contains some elegant buildings. There is a little town opposite Louisville call'd Jeffersonville.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>.

This morning we put off with Nelson<sup>11</sup> the Pilot & pass't the Falls by going through the Indian shute the other shutes being impassable at present. Thousands of swallows and some Fishing Hawks were hovering over the Falls. We landed opposite to Berthonds Warehouse at Shippingsport where G. Halley dispos'd of his Hemp to Berthond & Co. Flying Clouds & windy. Lent G. H. 1/6

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>.

Went up to Louisville. Rec'd from G. H. 7s 6d. bought a knife for 3/. Took a view of Louisville. A very handsome little Town. Two Gunboats building at the mouth of Beargrass creek which empties in on the left side at the head of the Falls. return'd & lay at the Boat had company with us. Wind & clouds.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>.

High winds with rain last night. Went up through Louisville—to the upper Landing & assisted T. Richardson to bring his Horse Boat over the Falls. Came very well without a Pilot. Windy weather. we bought some fine Fish.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>.

A number of Boats have past the Falls. I repair'd our Boat. saw 6 Boats put of together. went on board the Western Trader, a handsome vessel lying at Anchor just below the Falls She belongs to Berthond & Co., of 410 Tons burthen. Some call her a ship others only a squared rigged brig. She is waiting for the River to rise to proceed down, which must be 4 feet higher for her to go. it is now rising and has risen 2 or 3 feet since we have been here. very windy weather. This evening I found a fresh Human jaw bone on the Beach.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>.

About one oclock P. M. we put off from the Falls eight Flat Boats and a Keel in company.

<sup>11</sup> Probably Capt. John Nelson, son-in-law of Capt. James Patton, the Falls Pilot.



Left about 30 Boats at the falls above & below. We lash't with the Ledgerwoods Keel & Mr. Joshua Baker's flat Boat. We proceeded on at the rate of between 3 & 4 miles per hour. An Island just below the Falls & 2 or 3 low rocky ones in it. This evening we divided into watches of 3 hands. Drew for precedence. I took the command of the first and sat until half an hour after 10 P. M. about 9 we past the mouth of Salt River.<sup>12</sup> Cool & Windy. Banks of river frequently low on each side. Growth Sugar tree Maple, Sycamore & Cottonwood. very good range here about 70 miles below Louisville.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>.

Had the 4<sup>th</sup> Tour & just before daybreak 2 Indians came out to us. I bought a couple of fine Venison hams of them for ½ Gallon of whiskey. they could scarcely speak a word of English. Past the mouth of Blue River<sup>13</sup> and an Island this morning. Bought a cat fish for 3 lbs of Tobacco weighing 40 or 45 lbs. Warm & pleasant. course of the River S.W.

Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We had a thunder shower that brought us to for an hour or two. Past 2 or 3 Islands & the Yellow Banks<sup>14</sup> about dark. had the 3<sup>d</sup> Tour tonight. We think we float 80 miles in 24 hours. The Banks covered with cane. A number of wretched little huts scattered along the river. Breckenridge & Ohio counties here Henderson next and Livingston.

Friday 2<sup>d</sup>.

We outfloat anything in company. Past a very Large Island this morning about 12 miles from the Red Banks.<sup>15</sup> Past the Red Banks about 12. A small village there which is now in an improving state. Past the 2<sup>d</sup> Diamond Island about dark. Pretty large. I observ'd the marks of an hurricane on it. the right hand shoot the best but our Boat took the left. 2<sup>d</sup> Tour tonight. Mr. Ledgerwood parted with us about midnight & about 2 in the morning we past the mouth of the Wabash River an Island at its mouth. Flying clouds & pleasant weather.

Saturday 3<sup>d</sup>.

Pass't the mouth of the Saline River<sup>16</sup> about 10 this morning. The Banks covered with cane & Cotton Wood. Past some very picturesque rocks today & this evening past the Rock

<sup>12</sup> Hardin and Bullitt Cos., Ky.

<sup>13</sup> Crawford and Harrison Cos., Ind.

<sup>14</sup> Owensboro, Ky.

<sup>15</sup> Henderson, Ky.

<sup>16</sup> Illinois.



cave.<sup>17</sup> Joshua Baker & self took our canoe and landed on it we thought it worth looking at. An Island just above it took the right hand shoot. Hurricane Island is said to be 5 miles below it we made the left hand shoot with infinite difficulty & labour. We were to have only two watches to night. I stood the 1<sup>st</sup>, but we landed about 12 or 1 at night on account of wind. Past an Island just before we landed. Flying clouds & warm.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

At day break we put off. several boats that did not put to, overtook us, 15 boats in company. Past the mouth of Cumberland<sup>18</sup> 12. an Island at its entrance. 10 or 12 miles below past the Tennessee River.<sup>19</sup> 2 Islands at its mouth. 8 or 10 miles below past Fort Massac<sup>20</sup> just after dark. Flying clouds & very windy. Took the first watch floated until 11 and had to bring to on account of a Thunder cloud. Past 7 or 8 islands today. Expect to reach the Mississippi tomorrow.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>.

Put off about sunrise. several Boats past us while we lay to. Past Wilkersonville<sup>21</sup> in the morning off which place 2 Cherokee Chiefs came on board us dress't in stile. A large Barge from St. Louis came up to us on their way to the mouth of the Cumberland. They informed us that there was a likelihood of a Spanish & Indian war. Advised us to be on our guard. We landed near night about half a mile above the mouth of Ohio. Mr. Joshua Baker & Foulger took our canoe & cross't the Mississippi & bought some sugar & salt. the Mississippi very low. Flying clouds & light breezes, but very hot.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Put off before light & row'd out into the Mississippi. Past 5 Islands 3 first on our left 4<sup>th</sup> a very large one on right 5<sup>th</sup> on left past a large Indian camp. had to bring to at the Iron Banks<sup>22</sup> for 2 hours on account of a storm. Landed in a bend with much difficulty & Labour after dark. Cloudy, windy & a little rain. The river very low & falling large sand Barr.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Today we past Island 6 on right & 7 8 on left. Had to bring to on account of Wind about 12 where we staid till morning.

<sup>17</sup> Cave-in-rock.

<sup>18</sup> Livingston Co., Ky.

<sup>19</sup> McCracken Co., Ky.

<sup>20</sup> Illinois. Opp. McCracken Co., Ky.

<sup>21</sup> Illinois.

<sup>22</sup> Columbus, Ky.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

Hung out an hook last night & this morning I caught a fine white cat fish about 30 lbs in weight. Cloudy yesterday evening with a little rain & Thunder last night we had a heavy fall of rain expect the Mississippi will rise shortly. We put out this morning at the common time 5 Boats in Co. 2 Baker's Spilman & Ramsay an unlikely morning. Past New Madrid<sup>23</sup> where Ja. Baker & self landed in a canoe & bought some necessaries. an handsome situation but said to be unhealthy. The wind continued to rise until a P. M. when it blew a hurricane drove Jno. Baker Spilman & us on a Bar in the River. Ja. Baker & Ramsay went father down. we hung on the shoal about half an hour the storm abated a little & we were off with the current landed about half a mile below & found Ramsay's Boat sunk in a few minutes the other Boats came down we assisted each other & all landed safe. Saved what we could of Ramsay's Property from wreck. The storm continued with abated fury till night.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

Cool night. Employ'd in putting part of Mr. Ramsay's property on board our 4 Boats. A very fatiguing days work. Upwards of 20 Boats past us today. Flying Clouds & windy.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

After making some more arrangements for Ramsay, we put off about 10 oclock A. M. Good weather. Past the Little Prairie<sup>24</sup> a small Town good situation. A Schooner lying at it built on the Ohio. Several Indian camps just below it. we passed a number of Island & shoals it very low country generally. Have seen but one hill for a week.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>.

The wind arose at about 11 or 12 we had to bring to on a very bad shore Banks falling in put in about 2 hours. Past some tremendous sawyers.<sup>25</sup> Very hot for most of the day. We floated until dark tonight for want of a good place to Land.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Cloudy morning & rain. A violent storm obliged us to put to for the most of the day. Put out about 4 P.M. Past several Islands. Made a difficult Landing near night. 8 Boats in company.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Hove off early. Past the 1t, 2d and 3d Bluffs<sup>26</sup> opposite the last we past the Devil's race

<sup>23</sup> Missouri.

<sup>24</sup> Missouri.

<sup>25</sup> Trees in river bobbing up and down.

<sup>26</sup> Chickasaw Bluffs.

path. Cloudy & windy had to bring to twice on account of winds. Landed after dark with much difficulty after pulling across the Mississippi twice saw the first Pelicans this evening and was troubled with the first Misquitos. A great number of sawyers in this part of the River. Past a large Indian camp today.

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Put off early from snag Island where we lay. We had very much rain last night with Thunder & Lightning. Had to put to on account of wind about 9 P.M. for an hour and an half cloudy with a deal of rain, we were wet all day. Past a Brig 12 or 15 miles above the 4<sup>th</sup> Bluff she is aground. Landed at the 4<sup>th</sup> Bluff a little before night where we shall tarry. there was formerly a French or Spanish garrison kept here. There is a small town.<sup>27</sup>

#### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

This morning I went up to the Garrison with Mr. Moss. Guard is kept there. They have 5 pieces Artillery mounted. The Fort commands the River. A very Foggy morning did not start until 10 P.M. Fine weather, an handsome part of the River, no wind an agreeable days Float. We saw some Eagles & Buzzards on a drift heap to day & a man from one of the Boats went out in a canoe & found a man lodg'd in it who had apparently been dead 4 or 5 days. Made a very good landing tonight only the Boats too much crowded.

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

Excessively hot today. A number of sawyers. We pass the wrecks of a great many Boats. Pas't on the right the mouth of the River St. Francis.<sup>28</sup> 75 miles below the 4<sup>th</sup> Bluff & about 12 or 15 miles below on the same side the mouth of the Ozark River.<sup>29</sup> 7 or 8 Barges & Keels with troops destined for Nachitochas or Red River pas't us today. The River continues to rise, and the Banks to fall in. The Country very low here & the Banks covered with cane & rushes scarcely any settlement on the River here. Swam in the River.

#### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

Last night & the night before the Misquitos began on us I can easily perceive how intolerable they will be When their number becomes equal to what is common they I believe are almost twice as large as in Kentucky. Today we came to a place in the River where 1 or 2 shoots put out to the right 4 Boats of us took the left hand shoot we found it much farther and the current more slow we took a right hand shoot it was nearer but the current very slow. A pleasant day cloudy & light breezes. We landed about 6 P.M. in

<sup>27</sup> Memphis, Site of old Fort Pickering.

<sup>28</sup> Arkansas.

<sup>29</sup> Arkansas.

a taught gale of wind. We smoak't away the misquitoses with tobacco. Foot raced it on the Beach above us.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

A Pleasant day tho' very hot at intervals. Made a good float. Past the mouth of White River<sup>30</sup> on our right 75 miles Below the St Francis & Landed about 18 miles below the mouth of the Arcansas<sup>31</sup> on same side a very difficult landing an Island just below the mouth on our left the nearest & best have been very much fatigued with rowing for several days past.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>.

We landed for half an hour in a gale of wind this morning But made a good float hot weather flying clouds. The River very crooked we frequently pass bends of 15 miles in length a low country. Growth Cottonwood, Willow & Cypress.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Hot today to a redundance. Made a fine float. Pas't 2 or 3 trading Barges going up the River About 70 miles below the Arcansas River, came to the first Spanish Beards in the ragged bend a kind of moss, growing on the trees 8 or 10 feet long, resembling hemp after breaking.

Wednesday 21<sup>t</sup>

Very hot last night. We were much troubled by the Misquitoses. I slept not more than 1/3 of the night. A Boat past us in the night on her way to Natchez. Put out this morning at daybreak. We past a part of the River which is straight for 15 or 18 miles. A small Island in the lower part of it call'd Stack Island . Past a large Barge. Went on to shore & got some Black berries. ditto weather.

Thursday 22<sup>d</sup>.

Put out at the usual time a Fine morning. We past the Horse shoe bend where Mr. Dallam saw a large Alligator. We past in the evening the mouth of the Yazoo River<sup>32</sup> on our right said to be 251 miles below the Arcansas a pretty considerable River. Landed on a sand beach about 6 or 7 miles above the Walnut Hills. Ditto Weather.

<sup>30</sup> Arkansas.

<sup>31</sup> Arkansas.

<sup>32</sup> Mississippi.

Friday 23<sup>d</sup>.

Proceeded at daybreak. past the Walnut hills early. several settlements on the River at & immediately below the Hills. Past about 12 the Town or settlement of Palmyra<sup>33</sup> a handsome place We got for the first plenty of Precon's. Landed just above the Grand Gulph.<sup>34</sup> The day has been most ardently hot.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>.

Put out & past the Gulph Big Black a small River just at the entrance. The Gulph 54 miles below the W. Hills 10 miles below we past Bayo Pierre,<sup>35</sup> a small water course several handsome settlements at the mouth 4 or 5 miles below we Past the Petit or small Gulph. A Beautiful place high lands. The Indian Corn here 20 or 30 miles above Natchez is 7 or 8 feet high past the mouth of Coles Creek<sup>36</sup> about 12 or 1. got some Lettuce and snaps. landed about 13 or 14 miles above Natchez.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

Last night several of us amused ourselves with swimming in the River. The Boys caught a few shrimp but I tasted none of them. This morning early we put off & about 9 or 10 P.M. got to Natchez.<sup>37</sup> about 65 or 70 Boats lying there. Hot to a degree. I went out to a spring & saw a Camaleon. a curiosity.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>

Wrote some letters & went up to Town & put them in the Post office. Explor'd the Town. rain this evening. drop't our Boat lower down. The River rising. Boats still landing.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>

Last night we had the most violent rain I ever saw. I went up to Town today again with some of our company & took a full view of it. Very windy today. Agreed to go to New Orleans with J. Baker we proceed tonight.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>

We put of last night at 10 & got to the Heights about 12 oclock today. Troops lying here. A small Town. This evening we a violent storm of wind & rain

<sup>33</sup> Mississippi.

<sup>34</sup> Mississippi.

<sup>35</sup> Mississippi.

<sup>36</sup> Mississippi.

<sup>37</sup> Mississippi.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Employ'd today in taking out part of our cargoes. Excessively hot. very fatiguing.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>

Windy this morning. Came down several Boats with Troops from St. Louis. Employ'd in arranging the cargoes of two of the Boats. A Storm of wind & rain this evening. Expect to proceed tomorrow. foot race.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>.

To day at 11 or 12 two of our Boats proceeded on towards New Orleans. 12 miles below the Heights we past the mouth of Red River<sup>38</sup> on our right. considerable Watercourse & 3 miles below the Chaffelia<sup>39</sup> on same side. Last night I had the misfortune to tread on a nail which ran into my foot about an inch & which has made it very sore. din'd lusciously yesterday on Bacon & snaps. ditto weather.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>. June.

A very foggy morning. we past Point Cupee<sup>40</sup> this morning at which place are some of the handsomest seats I ever saw for 10 or 12 miles we floated last night fine weather. Hot sultry weather. This evening we past Batton rouge.<sup>41</sup> An Handsome place.

Monday 2<sup>d</sup>.

We had a fine pleasant night for floating last night. We past several houses where they were dancing in full glee. We have the most beautiful prospects here about 60 or 70 miles above New Orleans. low level Banks fine plantations & handsome houses surrounded with beautiful orange & fig trees. The River here is much less crooked than above. Ditto weather.

Tuesday 3<sup>d</sup>.

Foul weather obliged us to bring to last night, but about midnight we put out & proceeded. We have a constant succession of the most beautiful seats in America. we expect to arrive at New Orleans this evening. Had to bring to for an hour this morning for wind. The boys went onshore & got some Cucumbers & green corn. About 3 P.M. We arrived at the City of New Orleans.<sup>42</sup> My greates expectations are gratified. There are said to be more than 150 Ships & sailing Vessels of burthen & upwards of 300 Flats. Some Grand buildings here.

<sup>38</sup> Louisiana.

<sup>39</sup> Louisiana.

<sup>40</sup> Louisiana.

<sup>41</sup> Louisiana.

<sup>42</sup> Louisiana.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>.

This morning I walked down to the Market House. A vast concourse of people. Plenty of Watermelons, Cucumbers, plumbs, sweet & Irish Potatoes & almost everything. To a Fire broke out near the upper Garrison in a rope manufactory. It consumed some buildings, but was extinguished at length with some difficulty & much uproar. Frequent disturbances between different parties & sort of People here an American was stab'd here today by a Spaniard. very hot. misquetoos very bad here now.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>.

This evening I went down to the Roman Church & was witness to some of their ceremonies. ditto weather & ditto misquetoos.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>.

We unloaded our Boats. some of us took a ramble through the City.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>.

Violent rain last night. some of us took a view of some of the Curiosities here. A large ship came down the River & anchored opposite the City. We expect to leave here tomorrow. Have been much indisposed today but better this evening. Went up & lay at Winn's with Mr. Orear.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>.

This morning I walked out to the Lake to see when we could cross. uncertain weather today or not we begin to be very anxious to quit New Orleans. Went to Church & took a view of their ceremonious worship. Fine Girls. Lay at Madam Jack's in the City. hot weather.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup>.

This morning we agreed with the master of a Schooner to take us across the Lake. hired a Cart to carry out our baggage. took leave of our friends in Orleans went on board & dropped down the bayo to the Fort where we lay till morning. 36 or 8 passengers & 2 horses. do We.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Put off & proceeded across the Lake low winds went through pass monshae & anchored in its mouth.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeded across the small lake & up Tolhany River.<sup>43</sup> Landed about 2 or 3 P.M. at

<sup>43</sup> Louisiana.



Bookters. We saw a number of Alligators to day kill'd 2 or 3. We pack't up our baggage & proceeded on towards Natchez on foot about 7 or 8 miles from B's we have encamp't at dark. an hot day.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>.

Breakfasted at starne's 6 miles ahead of where we lay. Today I shot an Alligator with a Pistol. We have walked today & yesterday evening through open piney land covered with sedge grass. I begin to feel very sore this evening. camp't in the woods. An heavy rain today kept dry with one umbrella.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

This morning we walk't 10 miles to breakfast very sore. Last night we left one of our company sick at a public house Mr. Kincade & this morning we leave Mr. Foulger another of our company at Bates' where we breakfasted. A Violently hot forenoon & rain in the afternoon. about 28 or 30 miles to day to mile's horribly tired.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>.

Yesterday we cross't the two branches of the river Omeet<sup>44</sup> & to day we past the Homochito<sup>45</sup> river. miry swamps at each of them. We left another of our company Mr. Davis. he was too sick to keep way with us. an hot forenoon & a tremendous rain in the afternoon. We lay within 21 miles of Natchez. Weary, Weary, Weary.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>.

I proceeded on today With greatest difficulty & reached Natchez a short time before night. My fortitude has been stretched today to the utmost. my feet & legs are much swelled and sore. do Wea.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>.

I found my friends here well the sun was Eclipsed this morning about 6 or 8 digits. An Horse race ran here this evening for \$400. a large collection of People. ditto Weather.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. Several of my acquaintances left this & proceeded on toward Kentucky. I intend to proceed myself in one or two days more. Weather ditto very much. Misquetoos here are altogether intolerable.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>.

Din'd at Mr. Woods. do Weather.

<sup>44</sup> Amite, Mississippi.

<sup>45</sup> Homochitto, Mississippi.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>.

Went up to town borrow'd a Book The Constant Lovers of Mr. Halley's. do Weather. I begin to be anxious to leave this place.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

do Weather.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>.

Walked up to Town yesterday and borrow'd The Nocturnal Visit a Novel in two Volumes finished reading them this evening they afforded me much pleasure. do Weather

Sunday 22<sup>d</sup>.

song frolic do weather at the River.

Monday 23<sup>d</sup>.

expect to start to Kentucky tomorrow. rec'd \$12 and a Book the Tales of the Castle of Mr. Halley. very hot weather. Indisposed this evening.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>.

About 2 P.M. today after arranging my business in company with J. Sudduth I left Natchez we were overtaken within a short distance of Town by a Mr. Lester whom we hired to pack for us through the wilderness. We Past Washington a tolerable little Town, 6 miles from Natchez & Sulses town 6 miles farther on, ordinary place. we lay 15 miles from Natchez. Ardently hot.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Early this morning we proceeded on & past the miserable little town of Union. we past Hunston 25 miles from N-s. a very handsome situation in an improving condition. Last night I felt very much fatigued violent pains in my feet knees back & head. very little better today. 12 oclock. traveled about 30 miles.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>.

This morning we saw the mark of a most tremendous hurricane only 15 miles to day we lodged at Bayo Peer<sup>46</sup> at Wooldridges we lay in some provisions. hot.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

We past Smith's the last House & took the Wilderness about 24 miles today we lay in the woods we heard several Panthers round our camp.

<sup>46</sup> Bayou Pierre, Mississippi.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>.

Our pack horse left us last night. I went back 8 or 10 miles & got it. today we traveled about 22 miles rain today & yesterday. This evening I am taken with a violent dysentery head ach, sick stomach & high fever.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>.

This morning I proceeded on with the utmost difficulty very ill we past one house to day about 40 miles from smith's an hot day I have been quite ill all day. a bloody flux nearly 30 miles today.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>.

Much better today but quite weak & no appetite came past 2 Indian houses at the last I bought some milk about 25 or 7 miles today came through several Praires to day & yesterday & other large tracts thinly covered with shrub oak.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Proceeded on very weak, no appetite to our provisions. about 12 got to another Indian House 24 miles from the last bought some milk & homony for a bitt. The weather is oppressively hot through this open land.

Wednesday 2<sup>d</sup>.

Still very weak both in body & appetite. got to the Frenchman's this evening. several companies of horsemen past us here. Great rain this evening.

Thursday 3<sup>d</sup>.

Rain this morning. bought some green corn this morning. About 10 or 15 we proceeded on & lay at the 2<sup>d</sup> French camp.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

We proceeded on early. I walk't 18 or 20 miles to an Indian's House. got dinner for 2 bitts. lay within a mile of the Pigeon roost. 27 or 8 m's.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>.

This morning we took our things on our shoulders & proceeded on. Past the Pigeon roost & breakfasted 6 miles on this side. We walk't about 33 miles to day clear & hot.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>.

At daybreak we proceeded on & about 10 we came to H. Perry's got some provisions. proceeded on past Colbert's 9 miles from Perry's & 9 or 10 miles. I lay tonight in an Indian hut.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>.

At day break we set off. This morning I bought a pr. Of mochasins some cold flour & some potatoes of a very courteous Indian. We past the old Chickasaw Town about 12 most of its inhabitants has remov'd to Farms in the Country where they live very well. We came on 16 or 18 miles further & lay at a small run. Vastly hot today water scarce 28 or 9 miles.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>.

Today we traveled upwards of 30 miles. Suffer for water in the evening very mean when we get it we encamp't to night with a friendly Indian & his Squaw this evening & last we walk't about 9 miles without water. do weather.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Early this morning left our Indian companions & proceeded on wist to get to Tennessee River today. Within about 15 miles of the River we came to a clear little stream of running water, a great novelty to us. We cross't Bear creek,<sup>47</sup> a considerable stream about 20 or 22 miles from the River, where we arrive at sun set. we are disappointed about getting provisions. Shall have to live on short allowance it is yet between 120 & 140 miles to Nashville. do weather.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>.

We cross't the Tennessee this morning  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile wide,  $\frac{3}{4}$  a piece ferrage. We put on rapidly & about 12 came to an Indian camp but got nothing scarcely. We have past a number of fine little streams since we left the River but this evening we walked until we were almost exhausted before we found water t'was good when we found it & we lay by it all night about 30 miles to day dry & hot.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>.

To day we walk't 10 or 12 miles on a dry ridge where we suffered a good deal for water. the Road has been very much broken last evening & to day & covered with small round pebbles which make walking very painful. we past another Indian house got some bread, milk & homony about 28 or 30 miles. Do weather. lay at buffaloe.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>47</sup> N. Alabama, Miss. Border.

<sup>48</sup> Buffalo River, Tenn.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeded early. Past another long dry ridge got to the Hog spring where we din'd. We went to another spring on the dry ridge & early in the evening we cross't Duck River,<sup>49</sup> considered to be in the edge of the wilderness a fine clear stream about 150 feet wide. we lay about 2 miles from Duck in the woods but the Gnats kept us from sleeping.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>.

At the dawn of day we proceeded on & about 12 got to the first House in the settlement at night we cross's little Harper, a small creek & lay in an House on the Nashville side about 25 miles to day. This evening we were caught in a most violent shower of rain t'was very much wanted here.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>.

only 18 m-s to day. we went this morning through the Town of Franklin 10 m-s from Nashville. stop't as Mrs. White's got some washing done. This evening I unbearded for the first time since I left Natchez. I went home with some ladies this evening. rain again this evening.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>.

Made a very late start this morning waiting for our clothes. About 12 we got to Nashville<sup>50</sup> staid only a short time we cross't the Cumberland River & lay at Walkers heavy rain this evening only 15 miles today. hot.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeded on & about 3 P.M. got to Mr. Searcy's 22 miles. Heavy rain this evening lay at Mr. Searcy's. hot Wea.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>.

After breakfast we proced on through the Barrens. very hot din'd at McClannnyhan's an hard shower of rain before us this e'en 20 miles to day.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>.

We waited until late this morning for some biscuit about 12 we cross't big Barren River.<sup>51</sup> din'd at Rees's where was a young Man one King very sick. we got to the Dripping Spring Hubbart's where we lay an hot evening 23 m's.

<sup>49</sup> Tennessee.

<sup>50</sup> Tennessee.

<sup>51</sup> Kentucky.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>.

Very early this morning we put off. Breakfasted at Prewit's Knob. past the Bear wallow.<sup>52</sup> Oven spring. Little Barren River,<sup>53</sup> and lay at Martin's. A very hot day. L. Barren River is the termination of the Barrens on the eastern side. The Land in them is in general thin, covered with coarse sedge grass & thinly with little scrub oaks & hiccory interspersed with groves of good timber; there are generally springs & plantations in the groves hot to day 32 miles to day.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeded early this morning cross't green River,<sup>54</sup> Mulder's Hill<sup>55</sup> & the Rolling fork of salt River.<sup>56</sup> It was so low that I stept across it we lay at Col. Gibb's same distance do weather.

Monday 21<sup>t</sup>.

To day we went through Danville<sup>57</sup> 2 or 3 miles 35 or 6 miles to day cloudy & agreeable to day.

Tuesday 22<sup>d</sup>.

This morning we cross't Dix River.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Hart Co.

<sup>53</sup> Green Co.

<sup>54</sup> Green Co.

<sup>55</sup> Muldraugh's Hill, Taylor Co.

<sup>56</sup> Marion Co.

<sup>57</sup> Boyle Co.

<sup>58</sup> Between Boyle and Garrard Cos.